

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “teeth configured as barbs” recited in claim 9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8, are objected to because of the following informalities: claims recite the open ended clauses: "can be accommodated" (claim 1), "can be inserted" (claim 3), and "can be brought" (claim 8), which render the scope of the claims not being clearly defined. All elements of the structure should be positively set forth in the claims without the use of the open ended clauses. Further, claim 3 recites the clause "which part has at least one engagement". It is not clear what part is being referred to, either the "shaft part" or the "plug-in shaft". Further, claim 3 recites the limitations: "the projecting first connection element", which lacks antecedent basis. Further, claims 6 and 8 recite the limitations: "shaft segments", which lacks antecedent basis. Evidently said "shaft segments" should be the "contact segments", and therefore, have been interpreted as the "contact segments" for the art rejection. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-10, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US/4,224,592 to Urani et al (Urani).

Regarding claim 1, Urani disclosed (Fig. 1-5) a fuse insert having a flat insulating body (21) and a pair of contacts (33, 35) projecting out of the insulating body, whose contact segments (27, 29), which can be accommodated in accommodations of the insulating body, are connected with one another by way of a fusible conductor (31), wherein at least one of the accommodations as well as the contact segment (27, 29) assigned to it have connection elements (49, 73, 69, and not numbered outer edges of the contact segments (27, 29)) of a positive-lock connection that correspond to one another.

Regarding claim 2, Urani disclosed that each accommodation is configured as a plug-in shaft, into which at least one first connection element ((49) and not numbered outer edges of the contact segments (27, 29)) projects.

Regarding claim 3, Urani disclosed that each contact segment (27, 29) is configured as a shaft part that can be inserted and fits into the plug-in shaft (Fig. 2, 3), which part has at least one engagement (69, 73) for the projecting first connection element.

Regarding claim 4, Urani disclosed that the engagement is a longitudinal groove (69) that has been formed in.

Regarding claims 5 and 7, Urani disclosed that the first connection element (not numbered outer edges of the contact segments (27, 29)) projects into the plug-in shaft in the form of a tongue that matches the longitudinal groove (69) as an engagement and extends over a predetermined part of the total length of the plug-in shaft (Fig. 2, 3).

Regarding claim 6, Urani disclosed that the engagement that is present as a longitudinal groove (69) extends over a predetermined part of the total length of the assigned contact segments (27, 29) assigned to it, in each instance.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Urani that predetermined regions of the surfaces of plug-in shaft and contact segment (27, 29) assigned to it, in each instance, which surfaces can be brought into contact with one another, have surface profiling (barbs) (49) that increases the friction (inherently) by blocking the movement counter to the insertion direction of the contacts (27, 29) into the insulating body (21).

Regarding claim 10 Urani disclosed that each free end of a contact segment (27, 29) that faces away from a contact tongue (33, 35) has a center notch (41, 43).

Conclusion

5. The remaining prior art made of record on PTO-892 was not relied upon, but is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure, because of the teachings of various electrical fuses with insulative housings and interlocking arrangements between said housings and fuse inserts.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANATOLY VORTMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2047. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, between 10:00 am and 8:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on 571-272-3740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anatoly Vortman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2835